

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ZA

SUBJ: SOGHOIAN CASE

1. AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE, ZAMBIAN CHARGE MWANZA CALLED ON AF/E DIRECTOR MARCH 13. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WERE COUNTRY OFFICER FOR ZAMBIA AND REPRESENTATIVE OF LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE.

2. MWANZA SHOWED DEPOFFS COPY OF LOG OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WHICH TOOK PLACE ON OCTOBER 29 OR 30 BETWEEN JOSEPH MEMBE AND THOMAS BLAZEK, A CONFIDENTIAL FBI SOURCE AND POTENTIAL PROSECUTION WITNESS. (A SUBSEQUENT INQUIRY TO U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BY DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED AUTHENTICITY OF LOG.) LOG SHOWED THAT BLAZEK INITIATED CALL IN COOPERATION WITH ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY AND FBI AGENT WHO LISTENED TO AND RECORDED CONVERSATION. LOG WAS FURNISHED TO SOGHOIAN'S ATTORNEYS BY USG AS PART OF PRE-TRIAL DISCOVERY.

3. INITIAL PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT RECORDS UNIMPORTANT CONVERSATION BETWEEN BLAZEK AND ZAMBIAN EMBASSY OPERATOR/RECEPTIONIST IN WHICH FORMER WAS INFORMED THAT MEMBE NOT AT CHANCERY AT TIME OF CALL. LATTER PART (BULK) OF TRANSCRIPT CONFIDENTIAL

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CRIP RECORDS MEMBE'S RETURN CALL FROM HIS HOTEL TO BLAZEK

IN WHICH THEY DISCUSS QUESTION OF DELIVERY TO MEMBE OF
UNSPECIFIED ITEM WHICH FROM TENOR OF CONVERSATION WE WOULD

JUDGE TO BE ONE OF SURREPTITIOUS LISTENING DEVICES INVOLVED
IN CASE AGAINST SOGHOIAN.

4. MWANZA SAID HE HAD NOT YET MENTIONED TRANSCRIPT TO GRZ
AS HE WISHED ASCERTAIN FROM DEPARTMENT WHETHER IT WAS, IN
FACT, COPY OF GENUINE USG DOCUMENT. DEPOFFS SAID THEY
WOULD CHECK QUESTION WITH OFFICE OF U.S. ATTORNEY. ON
MARCH 15 DEPOFF INFORMED MWANZA THAT DOCUMENT WAS AUTHEN-
TIC.

5. MWANZA, SAYING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, EX-
PRESSED SOME OBLIQUE CONCERN AT THE RECORDING OF A CONVER-
SATION, PART OF WHICH TOOK PLACE IN ZAMBIAN CHANCERY
(INITIAL PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT). DEPOFFS REPLIED THAT
IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS WHETHER THIS TRANSCRIPT OR OTHER
EVIDENCE WOULD SURFACE IN TRIAL AND PUBLICALLY TIE
SPECIFIC GRZ OFFICIAL TO SOGHOIAN'S ACQUISITION, ATTEMPTS
TO ACQUIRE OR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL LISTENING DEVICES.
DEPOFFS INDICATED THAT IT APPEARED IN INTEREST OF BOTH
GOVERNMENTS TO ATTEMPT MINIMIZE POTENTIAL PUBLICITY THAT
USE OF SUCH MATERIAL BY EITHER PROSECUTION OR DEFENSE
MIGHT GENERATE. CONSEQUENTLY, DEPARTMENT WOULD SEEK TO
AVOID PUBLIC USE OF SUCH MATERIAL BY PROSECUTION. DEPOFFS
POINTED OUT TO MWANZA THAT DEPARTMENT COULD NOT INFLU-
ENCE DEFENSE IN THIS VEIN AND THAT SOGHOIAN'S ATTORNEYS,
IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR CLIENT, LIKELY TO UTILIZE ANY-
THING WHICH MIGHT EMBARRASS EITHER GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER
IN THE HOPE THAT POLITICAL ASPECTS OF CASE MIGHT RESULT IN
EXTRA-JUDICIAL DECISIONS HELPFUL TO SOGHOIAN.

6. MWANZA STATED THAT GRZ HAD SAME INTEREST AS USG
IN AVOIDANCE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE OF PUBLICITY IN CASE THAT
COULD AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE AGREED
THAT THERE WAS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
WOULD UTILIZE ANY AVENUES OPEN TO THEM TO WEAKEN CASE
AGAINST SOGHOIAN.

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7. THE DEPT. IS MAINTAINING AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN
CLOSE CONTACT WITH U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ON THIS CASE.

8. COMMENT: TONE OF MEETING WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT.
MWANZA, CONTRARY TO HIS NORMAL ATTITUDE OF POLITE CON-
FRONTATION WHEN DISCUSSING ANYTHING REMOTELY RESEMBLING
PROBLEM, SEEMED GENUINELY INTERESTED IN AVOIDANCE ANY
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT CREATE PROBLEMS IN

BILATERAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE MAY HEAR MORE ABOUT
QUESTION OF RECORDING CONVERSATION OF GRZ CHANCERY OPERATOR
EVEN THOUGH RECORDING PERFORMED WITH PERMISSION OF
ORIGINATOR OF CALL AND AT HIS END OF TELECON. KISSINGER

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